

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 SSO-00 /010 W

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O R 231033Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC 1521

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS LAGOS 8528

USIA FOR IAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC NI

SUBJECT: STAG: NIKKI GIOVANNI

REF: CM - 1673

1. SUMMARY:

1. USING NIKKI GIOVANNI'S OWN PRESCRIPTION FOR WRITING POETRY, KALU UKA, POET AND PROFESSOR OF LITERATURE (UNIGERIA, NSUKKA), DESCRIBED NIKKI GIOVANNI'S POETRY "AS A FUSION OF BRAIN, HEART AND DREAMS WITH EXTREME WARMTH AND RELEVANCE" AND SAID HER VISIT TO NIGERIA REPRESENTED " CREATIVE MEETING POINT OF TWO CULTURES".

2. ALTHOUGH FIOVANI NIGERIAN VISIT SHORTENED BY ONE DAY DUE CANCELLATION PANAM'S NAIROBI-LAGOS FLIGHT AND ALTHOUGH VISIT ENUGU REQUIRED SIX HOUR DRIVE LAGOS BENIN ORDER OBTAIN SEAT AND CONNECT ENUGU FLIGHT, HER VISIT NIGERIA VERY SUCCESSFUL AND HER POETIC

STATEMENTS ONES NOT SOON TO BE FORGOTTEN. MS GIOVANNI WAS WELL RECEIVED., ATTRACTED LARGE AUDIENCES, INTERACTED SENSITIVELY AND GRACIOUSLY WITH CROSS SECTION NIGERIAN COMMUNITIES IN WHICH SHE APPEARED.

3. PROGRAM INCLUDED ENUGU READING CHAIRED BY NOVELIST CYPRIAN
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EKWENSI, DINNER AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, RECEPTION/READING AT

CAO'S RESIDENCE, POETRY RECITAL AND CLASS IN POETRY AT UNILAG, RADIO, PRESS AND TV INTERVIEWS, AND AN INFORMAL TETE-A-TETE WITH SENEGALESE POET ALIOUNE DIOP (SECRETARY GENERAL, SECOND WORLD BLACK AND AFRICAN FESTIVAL OF ART).

4. ALTHOUGH SNUBBED BY J.P. CLARK WHO, AT LAST MINUTE (FOR REASONS NOT YET DISCLOSED). CANCELLED HIS RECEPTION HER HONOR, AND SUFFERING FROM END-OF-TOUR FATIGUE AND SIX WEEK OLD COLD, MS GIOVANNI PERFORMED AND INTERACTED WITH WARMTH, CHARM, AND SINCERITY. SHE WAS EXCEPT FOR ONE APPOINTMENT, FAIRLY PUNCTUAL.

5. ON BALANCE, GIOVANNI VISIT CONSITITUATES, AS NOVELIST EKWENSI NOTED

:

".....AM EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE DISCOVERY OF SIMILARITIES; AND THIS THE ESSENCE OF THE CROSS-FERTILIZATION OF CULTURES."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, CULTURAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LAGOS08528
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731017/aaaaamnz.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CM - 1673
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Dec-2001 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STAG: NIKKI GIOVANNI
TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005